

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 245

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Head Coach Gary Rankin and the Alcoa High School football team on capturing the TSSAA Class 2A State Championship.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach Gary Rankin, the Alcoa High School football team is one such commendable team that achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2008 season, establishing an impressive record of fourteen wins against only one loss and winning an unprecedented fifth consecutive BlueCross Bowl Class 2A State Championship Game; and

WHEREAS, the Alcoa Tornadoes left a trail of devastation through the playoffs by defeating Cumberland Gap (68-0), Christian Academy of Knoxville (28-14), Loudon (34-0), and Marion County (30-14) as they cleared their path to the state championship game in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, the Tornadoes completed their phenomenal season by beating the Milan Bulldogs in the BlueCross Bowl by the score of 28-14, thereby capturing the team's fifth consecutive state football championship and their tenth overall; and

WHEREAS, legendary Head Coach Gary Rankin recorded his seventh state championship, having now led the Tornadoes to the state title in each of his three seasons at Alcoa High School; and

WHEREAS, this championship effort was led by the outstanding individual performances of Jaron Toney, named BlueCross Bowl Class 2A Offensive MVP, who led the way for the Tornadoes with 104 yards rushing, scoring one rushing touchdown and a two-point conversion,

as well as passing for another touchdown and Tyler Robinson, named Mr. Football Class 2A Lineman of the Year, who led the team with 8 tackles and a sack; and

WHEREAS, the top offensive unit in the state, Alcoa scored a blistering 622 points during its 15-game season, an average of 41 points per game, reaching the 50-plus point plateau in six games; and

WHEREAS, the tremendous defensive effort by the Tornadoes during the season was simply astonishing, holding their opponents to just 68 points in fifteen games, giving up just one rushing touchdown all season, while recording eight shutouts; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a successful and memorable football season, but also surely point toward success in their future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, displaying great sportsmanship and outstanding character, the members of the Alcoa High School football team conducted themselves in a manner appropriate to the integrity of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes great pride in the tremendous accomplishments of those student athletes who have excelled both on the field and in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Head Coach Gary Rankin and the Alcoa High School football team on their extraordinary success on the gridiron and on winning the TSSAA Class 2A State Football Championship in 2008.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.